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Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2012

General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh Session
Supplement No. 42

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I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 66/60, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009 and 65/86 of 8 December 2010,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Recalls* its resolution 61/98, in which it adopted additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the Disarmament Commission's methods of work;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[3]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/66/42).

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] A/CN.10/137.

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission intensify consultations with a view to reaching agreement on the items on its agenda, in accordance with decision 52/492, before the start of its substantive session of 2012;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2012, namely from 2 to 20 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

II. Organization and work of the 2012 substantive session

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2012 at United Nations Headquarters at its 318th plenary meeting, on 19 January 2012 (see A/CN.10/PV.318). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions relating to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its 2012 substantive session in accordance with the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" (A/CN.10/137) and in the light of General Assembly resolution 66/60. The Commission also took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the position of chair among the geographic regions. The Commission elected Enrique Román-Morey, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations, as Chair of its 2012 session. The Commission considered the provisional agenda for the 2012 substantive session.

3. At its 321st meeting, on 3 April 2012, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session, contained in document A/CN.10/L.67, on the understanding that once agreement was reached on items 4 and 5, the titles would be inserted and the document reissued as A/CN.10/L.67/Rev.1.

4. At its 324th meeting, on 5 April 2012, the Commission decided to include the following items in the agenda of its substantive session:

Item 4: Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Item 5: Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/66/27).

The provisional agenda for the 2012 substantive session, contained in document A/CN.10/L.67/Rev.1, is as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
5. Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.
6. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.
7. Other business.

5. Also at its 324th meeting, the Commission decided to hold two informal meetings during the general debate, one on the working methods of the Disarmament Commission and another on elements for a declaration of the fourth Disarmament Decade. It further decided that Friends of the Chair would coordinate the discussions and distribute outcome documents well in advance for consideration by the Commission.

6. At its 325th meeting, on 5 April 2012, the Commission took note of its general programme of work for the session (A/CN.10/2012/CRP.1), in which four meetings were allocated to a general exchange of views.

7. The Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 2 to 20 April 2012. In the course of its session, the Commission held 10 plenary meetings (see A/CN.10/PV.319-328), chaired by Enrique Román-Morey (Peru). The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the Secretary of the Commission and the Office for Disarmament Affairs represented the substantive secretariat.

8. During the 2012 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chair:
Enrique Román-Morey (Peru)

Vice-Chairs:
Representatives of Algeria, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Sweden

Rapporteur:
Fikry Cassidy (Indonesia)

9. At the 324th meeting, the Commission elected Naif bin Bandar Al-Sudairy (Saudi Arabia) as Chair of Working Group I, on agenda item 4. At the 325th meeting, the Commission elected Véronique Pepin-Hallé (Canada) as Chair of Working Group II, on agenda item 5.

10. Also at the 325th meeting, the Chair of the Commission informed of his decision to designate Bouchaib El Oumni (Morocco) and Lachezara Stoeva

(Bulgaria) as Friends of the Chair to conduct, on his behalf, two informal meetings during the general debate and informal consultations on the working methods of the Disarmament Commission and on elements for a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth Disarmament Decade.

11. From 3 to 5 April, the Disarmament Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.321-323 and 325). Representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Australia, Benin, Brazil, Chile (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Nigeria (in its national capacity and on behalf of the Group of African States), Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Viet Nam.

12. At the 1st meeting (319th plenary), on 2 April, the Commission heard the statements of the President of the General Assembly, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane. The High Representative also read a message from the Secretary-General.

13. In accordance with the decision taken at its 324th meeting, the Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". Working Group I was chaired by Naif bin Bandar Al-Sudairy (Saudi Arabia) and held seven meetings, from 9 to 18 April.

14. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5, entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons". Working Group II was chaired by Véronique Pepin-Hallé (Canada) and held seven meetings, from 9 to 18 April.

15. In accordance with the same decision, the issues of the working methods of the Disarmament Commission and elements for a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth Disarmament Decade were considered by the Commission at its two informal meetings under the chairmanship of the Friends of the Chair, Bouchaib El Oumni (Morocco) and Lachezara Stoeva (Bulgaria), respectively.

16. The Commission held extensive discussions on the non-paper on the working methods of the Disarmament Commission, prepared by the Friend of the Chair, under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. The revised version of the non-paper is dated 19 April 2012.

17. The Commission also held extensive discussions on the non-paper on elements for a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth Disarmament Decade, prepared by the Friend of the Chair, under her own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. The revised version of the non-paper is dated 17 April 2012.

18. In accordance with the past practice of the Disarmament Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings.

III. Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

19. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 66/60, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, together with all the official records of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters.

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

20. In the course of the Commission's work, the documents listed below, dealing with substantive questions, were submitted and considered:

Working paper submitted by Poland (A/CN.10/2012/WP.1)

Working paper submitted by Japan (A/CN.10/2012/WP.2)

Working paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement at the 2010 substantive session of the Commission (A/CN.10/2010/WG.1/WP.1)

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

21. At its 328th plenary meeting, on 20 April, the Disarmament Commission adopted by consensus the reports of its subsidiary bodies and the conclusions contained therein. There were no recommendations put forward by the Commission. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of the reports, which are reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

22. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted, by consensus, its report to be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

23. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

1. At its 324th meeting, on 5 April 2012, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 2012 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.67/Rev.1). The Commission allocated agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons", to Working Group I. At the same meeting, the Commission elected Naif bin Bandar Al-Sudairy (Saudi Arabia) as Chair of Working Group I.

2. Working Group I held seven meetings, from 9 to 18 April 2012. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as Secretary of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. The Working Group held extensive, though not exhaustive, discussions on agenda item 4.

4. The Working Group had before it a working paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement at the 2010 substantive session of the Commission (A/CN.10/2010/WG.I/WP.1).

5. The Working Group also had before it a working paper submitted by Japan (A/CN.10/2012/WP.2).

6. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 April 2012, the Chair circulated a non-paper, under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation, that contained elements which, in the Chair's view, could serve as a basis for further discussion of agenda item 4.

7. At its 3rd to 6th meetings, from 12 to 17 April 2012, the delegations made various proposals and exchanged views on the Chair's non-paper.

8. The Chair informed the Working Group that his non-paper was based on the working paper submitted by the Chair of Working Group I at the 2008 session of the Commission (A/CN.10/2008/WG.I/WP.1/Rev.1), a working paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement at the 2010 substantive session of the Commission (A/CN.10/2010/WG.I/WP.1) and the non-paper submitted by the Chair of Working Group I at the 2011 session.

9. Following discussions in the Group on his non-paper, the Chair decided to circulate, at the current session, under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation, a non-paper dated 17 April 2012, which, in his view, could form a basis for further discussions at the future substantive sessions of the Commission. The Working Group recorded its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

10. At its 7th meeting, on 18 April 2012, Working Group I considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 4.

24 The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 324th meeting, on 5 April 2012, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 2012 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.67) and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5, entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons". At its 325th meeting, on 5 April, the Commission elected Véronique Pepin-Hallé (Canada) as Chair of Working Group II.

2. Working Group II held seven meetings between 9 and 18 April. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as Secretary of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 9 April 2012, the Working Group took up the previous Chair's second revised non-paper dated 19 April 2011 and decided to use it as the basis for discussion.

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 11 April, the Working Group engaged in discussions and consultations on the non-paper dated 19 April 2011, during which delegations made written and oral proposals.

5. At its 3rd meeting, on 12 April, the Chair circulated a non-paper based on the previous Chair's text. The Chair's non-paper was presented under her own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation in order to facilitate discussions. At the same meeting, the Working Group began a preliminary discussion on the Chair's non-paper.

6. At its 4th meeting, on 13 April, the Working Group continued its preliminary discussion on the Chair's non-paper, during which delegations submitted proposals.

7. At its 5th meeting, on 16 April, the Chair circulated a first revision of the non-paper, prepared under her own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. The Working Group conducted preliminary discussions on the Chair's revised non-paper.

8. At its 6th meeting, on 17 April, the Chair circulated a second revision of the Chair's non-paper, prepared under her own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. The Working Group held a general exchange of views on the non-paper.

9. At its 7th meeting, on 18 April, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

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